

Acknowledgements

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A FEW LEPIDOPTEROUS NOTES FROM S. NORFOLK, EARLY AUG. 1983. — The following observations, made while staying with my good friends Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gould at Foulton, near Swaffham (4-8. viii), are possibly worth reporting.

Much to my surprise I came upon three specimens of *Eilema deplana* Esp. (Buff Footman) at separate spots resting on flowers of devil's-bit scabious beside a broad ride in the pine-woods near Foulton, about noon on a warm and intermittently sunny day. Had I been searching for them, others could probably have been found. According to the works at hand (which do not recognize the species as resident in East Anglia) this moth, like all of its group, hides during the day in trees and bushes; so it would be interesting to know whether the habit of daytime resting in the open on flowers represents a change in the species' behaviour. Barrett (1895, *Lep. Brit. Isl.*, 2: 223), writing of the allied *E. complana* L., mentions that it is very fond of sitting on the blossoms of thistle and *Scabiosa arvensis*, but only after dark. Possibly the above instance is not unconnected with the fact that *deplana* seems to have had an unusually good season in 1983; for not only were examples noted at the house lights at Foulton, but also, one came to my m.v. lamp here (Charlton, S.E. London) — the first I have seen in this district.

At the Warren Wood, Thetford Forest, *Lycaena phlaeas* L. (Small Copper) was in great profusion everywhere in the rides and open spaces wherever flowers occurred, presenting, for us at least, a most unusual and pleasing sight. I understand that this butterfly is less common than formerly, and indeed I saw no others during my short stay in Norfolk — even in exactly similar conditions in the Foulton pine-woods. A collector might have contrived to pick out some varieties, though we (being intent on other quarry) noticed none. No obvious reason for such phenomenal local abundance presents itself.

Finally I may mention that wherever we went *Pyronia tithonus* L. (Gatekeeper) was in evidence, being in fact much the commonest butterfly during my visit. Similar in its ubiquity but of course less numerous was the Pyralis *Udea ferrugalis* Hübn., mostly having a very washed-out appearance, and giving the impression of a large invasion of the species some time previously. — A. A. ALLEN.